



**Start of The Brafmann/Bravmann
family of Unteraltertheim (Bavaria).**

AR 11490

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The Brafmann/Bravmann family of Unteraltertheim, 2004

Research done for William Wolf 6/10/04
of Washington, DC 1

Dr. Roland Flade

The Brafmann/Bravmann family of Unteraltertheim (Bavaria)

The following information is from the marriage, birth and death register for the Jewish community of Unteraltertheim, kept in the Würzburg State Archives. The first entries are from 1808, the last from 1876.

All the Brafmanns/Bravmanns were living in Unteraltertheim, no one by that name was living in Oberaltertheim.

Benjamin/Baruch Brafmann

was born March 14, 1780 in Unteraltertheim near Würzburg, the capital of the region. His original name was Baruch [ben, son of] Samuel. In 1818, shortly after Bavarian Jews were forced to take family names, he was called "Baruch Samuel, genannt [called] Brafmann" in official documents. Later, he was simply called "Baruch Brafmann", or, after 1835, "Baruch Bravmann".

A note on the spelling of the second name

"Brav" is the German word for "honest, upright, good", "mann" is "man". At the beginning of the 19th century, German spelling rules were not as strict as they are today so that "braf" was just another way of writing "brav" (the current and only accepted spelling). When Benjamin Brafmann/Bravmann emigrated to the U.S., his name had been spelled "Brafmann" for almost two decades and "Bravmann" for just a very short time so that it seems only natural that he should return to the old spelling "Brafmann" in America.

German Jews who emigrated to the U.S. often changed their first name, too. In most cases, the first letter of their old Hebrew name was kept. So Baruch became Benjamin and Hajum (Chaim) became Henry etc.

Benjamin Brafmann's father was Samuel [ben] Wolf

Samuel Wolf was born in 1733, probably in Uettingen, a few miles from Unteraltertheim. At an undisclosed time, Samuel Wolf, together with his father Wolf, had moved from Uettingen to Unteraltertheim.

Samuel Wolf was married twice. With his first wife Henlein/Hänle (later called Hanna), daughter of a man named Moses, he had seven sons. One of them was Benjamin/Baruch.

With his second wife, who's name is illegible, he had another two children. The second wife came from near-by Wenkheim.

By profession, Samuel Wolf was a cattle-dealer. In Unteraltertheim, he lived in house no. 69. Samuel Wolf died in Unteraltertheim at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, 1815, 82 years old. He had suffered from consumption for two months. The doctor who looked after him was Valentin Schulz from Wenkheim. Samuel Wolf was buried on the Jewish cemetery of Wenkheim on the morning of Monday, May 22, 1815.

Present at the burial was Chusel Meier, the cantor in Unteraltertheim's synagogue and teacher at its Jewish school.

Benjamin/Baruch Brafmann

He was married in Unteraltertheim three years after the death of his father, on Tuesday, April 1, 1818. The marriage was also performed by Chusel Meier who is called "rabbi" in the marriage register. Witnesses were Jacob Fröhlich and [Israel] Brafmann, cattle-dealers of Unteraltertheim. [Israel] Brafmann was possibly one of Benjamin/Baruch's brothers.

By trade, Benjamin/Baruch Brafmann was a cattle-dealer like his father.

The bride was Hanna Abraham

She came from the neighbouring village of Oberaltertheim. Hanna was born August 18, 1790 (not 1795, as it says in Karen Franklin's email) in Oberaltertheim. Her father was Abraham [ben] Moses, a merchant, her mother was called Schönle. (Rabbi Chusel Meier died less than a year after the marriage ceremony at age 50 and was also buried in Wenkheim.)

The children of Benjamin/Baruch and Hanna Brafmann

1. Hanna

She was obviously named after her mother and her grandmother. Hanna Brafmann must have been born in or about 1819. She must be identical with the girl named "Hennie" mentioned in Karen Franklin's email.

At the time of Hanna's birth, the Brafmann family lived in house no. 66.

Unfortunately, the exact birth dates of Benjamin/Baruch's and Hanna's first six children are unknown since the birth register is incomplete.

As to the first child "Delia" mentioned in the email: Since Hanna is explicitly called "first child" in the birth register, she remains a mystery.

2. Abraham

The "second child", according to the birth register. He is obviously identical with the child by the same name from the email. There is no reason to question the information that Abraham was born in or around March, 1821. Abraham was obviously named after his mother's father.

By the time Abraham was born, the Brafmann family had moved to house no. 69 which had originally belonged to Benjamin/Baruch's father.

3. Samuel

Again, we do not know when the "third child" Samuel was born. The birth probably took place in or around 1823 and not about 1830 as it says in the email.

Samuel was named after his father's father.

4. Mösele

The "fourth child", probably a girl, born around 1825/26. She may be identical with "Therese", born around 1825, from the email.

The family was still living in house no. 69 when Mösele was born.

It should be noted that Hanna, Abraham, Samuel, and Mösele were the only Jewish children born during those years in Unteraltertheim. Apart from David (see below), Benjamin/Baruch's brothers obviously had not founded families by then.

5. Name illegible, possibly Chisla

The "fifth child", born around 1827/26/28. By that time, the Brafmann family had moved to house no. 92. She might be identical with "Delia", the first child, from the email.

6. Idel

"Sixth child", born after 1831, probably in 1832 or 1833. She is probably identical with Caroline (born about 1833) from the email.

When Idel was born, her father's name was put down as "Bravmann" for the first time. The family still lived in house no. 92.

7. Händlein

"Seventh child" of Baruch Bravmann (with a "v"). Definitely born in 1835. She was obviously also named after her grandmother Henlein/Hänle (later called Hanna). There is no reason to doubt that she is identical with Hannah (born 1837 in Bavaria or 1839 in the U.S., according to the email). It remains a mystery why two of Benjamin/Baruch's daughters had almost the same name. In the U.S., they obviously called themselves Hennie and Hannah respectively.

After 1835, no more children of Benjamin/Baruch and Hanna were registered. Probably the family emigrated shortly afterwards.

It should be noted that in the email and in the birth register the number of children is identical although the names are not the same in all cases. There obviously were seven children, five girls and two boys.

Other Brafmann/Bravmann families in Unteraltertheim

There were several other families by the name of Brafmann/Bravmann in Unteraltertheim. Since Benjamin/Baruch Brafmann had at least six brothers, he was probably related to some of them.

However, so far, it did not go into these details except in one case.

David Bravmann, a cattle-dealer and merchant born around 1768, may have been one of Benjamin/Baruch's brothers. He lost two children in 1818: Samuel, who was one year and six months old, and Hanna (Hänle), who was eleven years and eight months old. David Bravmann also died during that year (on June 5, 1818). He had lived in house no. 68.

Emigrations of members of the Brafmann/Bravmann families

Since the last child Händlein was definitely born in 1835, the emigration of Benjamin/Baruch Brafmann and his family may have taken place as early as 1835/1836.

There was one Moses Brafmann in Unteraltertheim but he cannot have emigrated to Baltimore in 1838 since some of his children were born after that date. However, there might have been several men by that name.

There may be documents about emigrations from Unteraltertheim before 1850, but I did not try to find them since it might be a time-consuming task.

Two documents were easy to locate:

In 1892, Julius Bravmann from Unteraltertheim (born in 1878, son of a cattle-dealer) emigrated, probably to the U.S.

In 1901, Jakob Bravmann from Unteraltertheim (date of birth unknown, a butcher by trade) emigrated, probably also to the U.S.

June 10, 2004



**End of The Brafmann/Bravmann
family of Unteraltertheim (Bavaria).**
